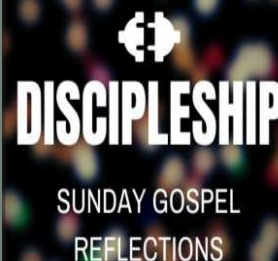


Theme - Persistence Pays Off-Especially in Prayer!

“Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.”

Verse 1, Luke 18:1-8



Adults

1. In the parable today, the focus is on prayer. Why should we be like the persistent widow presenting ourselves to God time after time in prayer, trusting that His justice will triumph, no matter how long it takes?
2. Is there an unanswered prayer that you have been praying for that has not been answered yet? If so, have you given up praying for the outcome? If you have, after reading this parable today did you gain hope and new understanding that God does not abandon us or our prayers?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Confusing God's timing with our timing?

Teens

1. Jesus tells the story of a widow who keeps asking a corrupt judge for justice. Even though he doesn't care about people or God, he gives in because she won't stop asking. Jesus encourages His followers to pray always and not lose heart, reminding them that God, unlike the judge, hears and answers. Have you ever had to ask someone over and over again for something? Do you think persistence always pays off?
2. Jesus asks, "When the Son of man comes, will He find faith on earth?" What do you think He means by that? Who in your life models the kind of persistent faith shown by the widow?
3. What are some things you've prayed for more than once? Did anything change over time? What can you do when you're tempted to give up-on a prayer, a situation, or even on God?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: We live in a world of immediate results (texts, streaming, internet searches), waiting can often feel frustrating or pointless, especially when it comes to God.

Children

1. Jesus compared prayer to the widow who would not give up asking the judge to render a just decision for her. Have you ever received what you were asking for from your mom or dad by being persistent? Why do you think Jesus tells us to be persistent in prayer instead of only asking once?
2. Can you think of and share an experience where a vulnerable person or class of people work hard for justice until they won?
3. Have you ever felt discouraged or tempted to give up hope? What might give you encouragement to help you continue?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not Believing prayer matters, loss of hope.

